



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## NEWS RELEASE

SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE

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### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE HOSTS PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND HEARINGS ON PROPOSAL TO RECLASSIFY WOLVES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be hosting public information meetings in August and September, and public hearings in October and November, on the Service's proposal to reclassify wolves in much of the United States. The proposal, published in the Federal Register on July 13, seeks to reclassify the gray wolf from endangered to threatened in some parts of the country and remove the species from the Endangered Species List in other areas. The move by the Service would affect the status of gray wolves throughout most of the coterminous 48 states; however, Mexican gray wolves in the Southwest would remain endangered, as would red wolves (a separate wolf species) in the Southeast.

The publication of the wolf reclassification proposal begins a year-long process which includes soliciting information from the public on the status of gray wolves in the lower 48 states. Public informational meetings will be held to gather input from states, Native American tribes, interest groups and members of the public. The Service will consider all information and comments received before making a final decision to change the status of the wolf. During that time, gray wolves will retain their current protection under the ESA.

Comments concerning the proposal may be mailed to: Content Analysis Enterprise Team, Wolf Comments, 200 East Broadway, PO Box 7669, Room 301, Missoula, Montana 59807. Comments also may be submitted by electronic mail to: [graywolfcomments@fws.gov](mailto:graywolfcomments@fws.gov). The subject line of all electronic mail submissions must read: "Wolf Comments." Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to 406-329-3021, and should have the subject: "Wolf Comments." All comments must include the name of the submitter in order for us to consider them in our final decision. Comments must be received by November 13, 2000. All comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address above and at other Service locations.

All meetings will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The meeting schedule for Idaho, Oregon and Washington is as follows:

#### INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 15, 2000 - Spokane, Washington

West Coast Grand Hotel (formerly Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park), 303 West North River Drive

Thursday, August 17, 2000 - Everett, Washington

Holiday Inn and Conference Center, 101 128th Street SE

Tuesday, August 22, 2000 - Idaho Falls, Idaho

West Coast Idaho Falls Hotel (formerly Cavanaugh's on the Falls), 475 River Parkway

Thursday, August 24, 2000 - Boise, Idaho

The Grove Hotel, 245 South Capitol Blvd.

Tuesday, August 29, 2000 - Portland, Oregon  
Shilo Inn Portland Airport, 11707 NE Airport Way

Thursday, August 31, 2000 - LaGrande, Oregon  
Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12th Street

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Tuesday, October 17, 2000 - Spokane, Washington  
West Coast Grand Hotel (formerly Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park), 303 West North River Drive

Thursday, October 19, 2000 - Everett, Washington  
Holiday Inn and Conference Center, 101 128th Street SE

Tuesday, October 24, 2000 - Portland, Oregon  
Shilo Inn Portland Airport, 11707 NE Airport Way

Thursday, October 26, 2000 - LaGrande, Oregon  
Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12th Street

Tuesday, October 31, 2000 - Boise, Idaho  
The Grove Hotel, 245 South Capitol Blvd.

Thursday, November 2, 2000 - Idaho Falls, Idaho  
West Coast Idaho Falls Hotel (formerly Cavanaugh's on the Falls), 475 River Parkway

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service posts information about gray wolf populations on the Internet at <http://midwest.fws.gov/wolf>. Individuals or groups wishing to be placed on the Service's mailing list to obtain updates on the wolf's status also can write: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gray Wolf Review, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056 or use either the [graywolf@mail.fws.gov](mailto:graywolf@mail.fws.gov) or <http://midwest.fws.gov/wolf> address or by calling the Service's gray wolf information line at 612-713-7337. Facsimile requests may be submitted at 612-713-5292. Additional information about the times and locations of public meetings and hearings can also be obtained from these sources.

— FWS —

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 520 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and wildlife management assistance offices, 64 Fishery Resource Offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.